

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01114 161701Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSA-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 IO-13  
AID-05 /084 W  
-----161810Z 065935 /43

R 161605Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1814  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

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CAIRO FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SY  
SUBJECT: MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB 16

1. MEDIA UNIFORMLY LED WITH PRES ASAD'S TRIP TO ROMANIA.  
PRESS HEADLINED: "IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS  
ASAD AND CEAUCESCU. PRES ASAD--'ISRAEL'S POLICY IS INCONSISTENT  
WITH PEACE AND IS DRIVING THE AREA TOWARDS WAR.'" PRESS REPORTED  
THAT BILATERAL TALKS LASTED HALF HOUR, FOLLOWING WHICH TWO  
PRESIDENTS MET ALONE. ASAD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AT  
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DINNER SAME EVENING TO CEAUCESCU FOR ROMANIA'S "SINCERE EFFORTS"  
IN AREA TO ACHIEVE JUST PEACE. ASAD CLAIMED TO SEE BEHIND  
ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE" AN ATTEMPT TO PUSH AREA TOWARDS  
MILITARY CONFRONTATION.

2. MEDIA REPORTED THAT QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE WAS MEETING  
AGAIN FEB 16 AFTER WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED SEVERAL DAYS

AGO AMONG THE MEMBERS RE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE SURRENDERING OF "TROUBLEMAKERS" (READ "REJECTIONISTS" WHO FOUGHT PRO-SYRIAN ELEMENTS AND ADF IN BEIRUT CAMPS). PRESS ALSO CARRIED LEBANESE MININT'S DENIAL OF REPORT THAT HE HAD STATED THAT INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES CAPABLE OF EXERCISING THEIR POWERS AND PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES.

3. LEAD EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH BY SENIOR COLUMNIST AMID AL-KHULI DEALT WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT. AL-KHULI CLAIMED THAT RECENT STATEMENTS OF THE SECRETARY ARE INCONSISTENT WITH AVOWED U.S.M GOALS TO SEEK JUST AND LASTING PEACE. AL-KHULI CHARGED THAT SECRETARY IN RECENT STATEMENTS ADOPTED ISRAELI MENTALITY TOWARD PEACE PROCESS BY SPEAKING FIRST OF PEACE, THEN WITHDRAWAL, AND FINALLY THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. AL-KHULI ASSERTED THAT ARAB IDEAS ON ANY SETTLEMENT UNFOLD IN OPPOSITE SEQUENCE. HE DECLARED THAT PEACE WOULD BE IN INTERESTS OF BOTH AMERICAN AND ARAB PEOPLES AND THAT U.S. HAD CAPABILITY TO IMPOSE JUST PEACE WHENEVER IT WISHED. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IF U.S. ONLY THREATENED TO CUT OFF WEAPONS AND SPARE PARTS TO ISRAEL, ISRAELIS WOULD BE COMPELLED TO ACCEPT PEACE SETTLEMENT. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT FACT-FINDING NATURE OF TRIP JUSTIFIED "NO OPTIMISM" UNTIL U.S. PROVED IT CAPABLE EXERCISING ROLE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSERTED THAT U.S. HAD FAR MORE INTERESTS IN ARAB WORLD THAN IN ISRAEL.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS SUMMARIES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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